



The Sather Pathfinder

Volume 1, Issue 13

May 20, 2006

Sather Air Base , Iraq

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Welcome home, Sather

By Col. Ronald Rutland

Commander

Welcome home everyone.

While this wasn't home for most of us two weeks ago, it is now. We come from different bases like Scott or Ramstein. We are from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active duty Air Force. Regardless of where we're from, what we're used to and where we've been, we are now all part of something greater than ourselves. We are the 447th Air Expeditionary Group; we are Sather Air Base.

Why is this so important? Because there are tens of thousands of Coalition forces that rely on our expertise and

capabilities every day to provide air base operations to sustain the fight here in Iraq.

This is my first commentary as commander of this unit – and it will certainly not be my last. So as we get to know each other over this rotation, let me explain my philosophy and vision on where I see the 447th AEG as we go through this rotation together.

We must take care of each other. While we may feel secure on our air base, make no mistake, we are in Baghdad, Iraq. With that, comes the inherent responsibility to be vigilant in our duties, vigilant in our force protection, and above all else, vigilant in taking care of our Wingmen.

While the Wingman concept may sound trite and rehearsed back home, here it is vital part of our well being. If we don't take care of each other, we will fail. If we take care of our Wingmen, we are guaranteed success. So officers must take care of their Senior NCOs, who must take care of the junior NCOs, who must in-turn take care of the Airmen. This is how it works in our business and this is why the other services look to the Air Force when they want to know how to take care of their people.

Of course, you can't take care of your Wingman if you do not take care of yourself. It's already hot and the temperature will only rise as the summer

progresses. Stay hydrated and make sure you aren't putting your safety and well-being at risk. Be sure to follow the advisements of the medical group and keep yourself healthy. If just one person in this group goes down, that means someone else has to pick them up and keep the mission going.

Our mission here is of the utmost importance to the war effort. No matter what your job is here as an Airman, you

wouldn't be here unless you were absolutely essential to the success of the mission. So while you may not be putting "steel downrange," you are making sure those who do, can.

I'm not going to sugar-coat it for you. The work is going to be hard; it's going to be rough; and to be honest, some days are going to try your patience. But all the sweat and pain will be worth it when redeployment comes; so as we prepare to board the plane for that long trip home, we can stand together, look back, and be proud of we've accomplished here. We will also be able to realize the impact of the friendships and bonds we made here together.

Our predecessors have set the bar high – so let's do our best to build upon their accomplishments and make sure that we leave our air base better than we found it.

Stay safe, work smart and take care of each other. Welcome home Airmen.

"... the other services look to the Air Force when they want to know how to take care of their people."

Sather Air Base Warrior of the Week



Senior Airman
Amedee McGee

447th Expeditionary
Logistics Readiness
Squadron

Scrutinized 51 shipping documents; effected CMOS data input accuracy; maintained 100% in-transit visibility.

Coordinated movement of 8 weapons shipments; ensured cradle-to-grave monitoring/protection; zero violations

Prepared 18 tons of warfighting equipment; expedited delivery throughout theatre; AOR mission objectives met



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Editorial Staff

Col. Ronald Rutland
Commander, 447th AEG

Lt. Col. John Morris
Deputy Commander, 447th AEG

Staff Sgt. Bryan Bouchard
Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

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Front Page photo

Col. Ronald Rutland
takes command of
the 447th Air
Expeditionary Group
May 12. For more,
see story on Page 3.



Photo by
Master Sgt. Will Ackerman



Col. Ron Rutland takes his first salute from the Airmen of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at the end of the change of command ceremony.

Col. Rutland takes reins of 447 AEG

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Public Affairs

The leadership of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group here changed during a ceremony May 12 in front of the Glass House.

Col. Dennis P. Ployer relinquished command to Col. Ronald A. Rutland.

Colonel Rutland is deployed from the 512th Airlift Wing, an associate C-5 Galaxy Air Force Reserve unit at Dover Air Force Base, Del., where he is the commander.

Colonel Ployer finished his four-month deployment and returns to Pittsburgh International Airport, Air Reserve Station, Coraopolis, Pa., where he is the vice commander of the 911th Airlift Wing.

“Thank you Denny for your inspired leadership of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group,” said Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Group commander. “Your group has moved tons of cargo and passengers. Your group has helped beddown the (new Iraqi air force) C-130 squadron at New Al Muthana (Air Base).

“Your group has enabled this group and the 332nd (AEW) to (provide) combat airpower right here, right now, in grand fashion.”

The 447th AEG is a geographically separated unit of the 332nd AEW, which is at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

The general presented Colonel Ployer a Bronze Star Medal for leading myriad accomplishments during his tenure as



Col. Ron Rutland addresses the men and women of the 447th AEG after he assumed command of the group during a change of command ceremony.

commander. The 447th AEG moved 72,000 passengers and 3,700 short tons of cargo through the aerial port since January. He also oversaw the installation of a tactical aircraft navigation system, which provides reliable aircraft instrument capability, and ended three years of degraded air operations system failure during inclement weather.

Colonel Ployer recognized the 447th AEG Airmen and Team Sather members.

“Our agenda from the start (of the deployment) has been to support the

mission and look after each other,” he said. “You have done both superbly. You guys ‘rock!’”

After assuming command and taking his first salute as 447th AEG commander, Colonel Rutland recognized his predecessor and his team’s success.

“The young man I’m taking command of the group from has raised the bar. I know what that means,” Colonel Rutland said. “The legacy continues today. ... You have showed us how to do that. You have charged us with that.”



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bryan Bouchard

Civil engineer Staff Sgt. Paul Eilenfeldt smooths over quick-drying concrete May 18 on the runway here. He and the team of "Dirt Boys" spent two hours repairing more than a half-dozen worn patches along the runway in the middle of the night. The patches are a "band-aid" repair until a contractor arrives to make more permanent fixes to the runway. Sgt. Eilenfeldt is deployed to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Runway Repair



(Above) Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Shumpert (left) and Master Sgt. Kevin Curtis sweep up debris as the rest of the "Dirt Boys" fill holes on the runway. (Right) Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Parsons mixes concrete for runway the runway repairs





Staff Sgt. Jamie Rodriguez, Personnel Support for Contingency Operations office, helps newly arrived Airmen inprocess here recently.

PERSCO

Airmen ensure accountability, remain ‘Semper Gumby’

**Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Will Ackerman**

Public Affairs

Picture yourself getting off an aircraft in the middle of the night onto a strange flightline. All you know is you are in Baghdad. You don't know where to go or what to expect. Everything is foreign to you. Then an Air Force NCO greets you. He or she is waiting for you ... day or night.

An Airman from the Personnel Support for Contingency Operations office meets every military aircraft that lands at Sather Air Base, regardless whether an Iraq-bound Airman is on it or not.

"If no one gets off the aircraft, that's fine," said Tech. Sgt. Kelly Brady, 447th Air Expeditionary

Group PERSCONCO in charge. "If 100 get off the aircraft, that's fine, too."

The PERSCO staff has an idea of the number of people who will be on missions by the manifests in the Global Air Transportation and Execution System. However, with the large volume of personnel movements during the air and space expeditionary force rotation, the manifests might have changed or an aircraft unexpectedly shows up.

"We have to always be flexible," said Capt. Sharon Gregory, PERSCO Team chief. "Changes occur at a moment's notice."

Once the Airmen are here, the PERSCO team accounts for each individual and directs them to where they are going. Whether

going to the international zone in Baghdad, a forward-operating base, Camp Victory, New Al Muthana Air Base or Sather AB, PERSCO accounts for every Airman who arrives and departs.

The challenge, Capt. Gregory said, is that members are often assigned to another base in the AOR, but will never stop at that base to inprocess. They often pass through Sather to get to their geographically-separated unit, so PERSCO Airmen take their information and send it to the responsible PERSCO office for accountability.

Personnel accountability is every PERSCO Airman's number one priority.

"We must provide accurate accounting to higher command of

how many people are at each location," Sergeant Brady said.

To ensure accountability, PERSCO scans each Airman's ID card. If the Airman is stationed at Sather AB, they complete an inprocessing form and turn in copies of orders, an emergency data and deployment job locator form. PERSCO also gives them a local orientation briefing.

Airmen moving onto other locations complete the same process, except they bypass the briefing and are instructed where they are going and how to contact their sponsors or how to get to their destination.

See PERSCO, on Page 6



CFACC visits

(Left) Tech. Sgt. Cory Norman (right), a life support specialist, shows Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, a "Sig" handgun, the Iraqi version of the M-9, at New Al Muthana Air Base, Iraq, May 12. The general was visiting U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the Multi-National Security Transition Command Coalition Air Force Transition Team at the base. They are training advisers for the new Iraq air force. (Below) Gen. North pins the Joint Service Commendation Medal on Tech. Sgt. David Harvey.



Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

PERSCO From Page One

Aside from providing accountability for each Airman, PERSCO provides each new Airman's information to finance to get the deployed entitlements initiated. Entitlements include the combat zone tax exclusion and hardship duty pay and imminent danger pay.

"If they do not come through here, their names will not get to finance and their entitlements will not start," said Senior Master Sgt. Kathleen Null, PERSCO superintendent.

An equally important reason to account for each person is if an emergency arises while the Airman is deployed.

"What if something happens to that person?" Captain Gregory said. "The most important thing is if someone is (injured) or killed is to notify the next of kin as soon as possible." When that occurs, everything else stops. Casualty reporting is PERSCO's number two job, the captain added.

"Somebody will be locked in the office taking care of the casualty reporting," Sergeant Brady said.

"We have four hours upon notification to get the information to the Air Force Personnel Center so they can notify next of kin so that families can be notified as quickly as possible."

Once Airmen are in place, PERSCO handles "sustainment" actions including promotions, reenlistments and tour extensions that are handled at home base military personnel flights.

Additionally, when Airmen finish their tour here, PERSCO is their "ticket" onto the departing aircraft. The staff reviews the

Airman's outprocessing checklist to ensure all actions were completed, punches a hole in the member's Sather Air Base access badge and pulls the personnel information file.

"We are the last stop before they get on the aircraft," Captain Gregory said.

With more than 4,500 Airmen rotating in and out of Iraq per AEF rotation, and the frequent changes that occur with manifests and aircraft arrivals, PERSCO relies on their motto: Semper Gumby — "Always Flexible."

Emergency Response Tips

Attack Alarm Actions

Upon attack (Alarm Red), take the actions:

- Assume **Alarm Red**, take cover where you are
- Wait for further instructions (i.e., Giant Voice, radio)
- Follow announced instructions
- Render aid and give a warning as required



Upon Alarm Black, take these actions:

- Remain under cover unless assigned to post-attack reconnaissance team, or if directed, to continue the mission-essential activities



- Travel is not permitted
- Wait for further instructions (i.e., Giant Voice, radio)
- Follow announced instructions

For more information, call CE Readiness at 446-2226.

New blues?

Air Force looks at altering service dress, going back in time

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—

Based on feedback received during visits with Airmen across the Air Force, the Air Force Uniform Board is reviewing several concepts that Airmen have suggested regarding the appearance of the service dress uniform.

Some of the informal feedback about the current service dress includes Airmen wanting to revamp the service dress to look more military, like the other services. One senior airman said, “the current uniform resembles a cheesy business suit.” A staff sergeant said, “think world’s most dominating air power, not CEO,” and another described it as a “cheap leisure suit.”

Other comments have suggested that the uniform needs to reflect the Air Force’s history more. On an Internet message board an Airman recently wrote, “I want to look good and be proud of my AF heritage.” Another Airman wrote that the dress uniform pales in comparison to any of the other services. “We need something that distinguishes us as proud members of the U.S. military.”

The Air Force began exploring these ideas by producing several prototypes that reflect a combination of ideas that have been gleaned from comments, suggestions and informal surveys conducted over the past several years.

A more formal survey soon will provide additional opportunities for Airmen to provide feedback and comments.

“We’ve been getting informal feedback on our current service dress uniform for several years, and what we consistently have heard from many Airmen is a desire for a more ‘military,’ and less ‘corporate’ look and feel, something more reflective of the Air Force’s heritage, and its role as a professional military



Photo by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice and Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos show off prototypes of the Billy Mitchell heritage coat in the Pentagon on Monday. General Allardice is director of Airmen development and sustainment and Sergeant Athnos is a member of the Air Force uniform board.

organization,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, director of Airman development and sustainment, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

“The Uniform Board has come up with some options to explore these concepts and the initial prototypes are direct descendants of our heritage, rooted in Hap Arnold and Billy Mitchell’s Air Force,” General Allardice said.

The survey will provide a more formal opportunity to collect

feedback on whether or not Airmen want a new service dress, and if so, what changes, likes, or dislikes they have about the prototypes.

“We believe we need to respond to the force and the constant flow of feedback we receive on the service dress is driving this initiative. We see this as an opportunity to do so, along with a chance to reflect on our rich history, as well as the image we wish to portray in uniform,” said

General Allardice. “We want to make sure our uniforms, all combinations, meet our current and future needs.” This process will use the standard Air Force Uniform Board process and as with the Airman’s Battle Uniform, Airmen are encouraged to take the opportunity to directly contribute to how their new service uniform might look.

The Air Force will present options based on feedback received on possible service dress designs through the uniform board process.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryan Bouchard

Army Sgt. Tony Reed and 2nd Lt. Jessica Boudra pose for Army and Air Force Exchange Service photographer Claudia Guzman Friday at the Sather Air Base Fitness Center. The photo shoot, which was conducted jointly with the Air Force was part of an effort to beautify the Camp Liberty Post Exchange by decorating it with pictures of local servicemembers. Both Soldiers and Airmen were involved in the shoot. The two soldiers are assigned to the 623d Movement Control Team on Sather.

SATHER AIR BASE BRIEFS

Air Force PT uniform

The 447th Air Expeditionary Group commander policy for wearing the Air Force physical training uniform is as follows:

- The T-shirt must be tucked into the trousers or shorts. Exception: the shirt may be untucked while you're actively engaged in exercise including at the fitness center, running outside or playing basketball on the courts. It must be tucked in at all other times.

- Shoes must be tied; socks must be white.

Right Start briefings

All new personnel must attend a Right Start briefing within one week of arrival. The briefings are held every Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m. at the Glass House conference room.

Airmen must bring their gas masks, a new, unopened filter cannister and wear DCUs.

Flightline photography

Flightline photography is prohibited without prior approval from the Public Affairs office. Individuals caught taking photographs or videotaping on or around the flightline area without approval may be apprehended by security forces and have their camera confiscated.

When taking photographs around the rest of the base, use the same principles learned at weapons training: only aim at what you intend to shoot. Know what is behind the subject being photographed.

For more information, call 446-2405.

No pets allowed

Don't feed the animals. General Order No. 1 prohibits this. Additionally, stray animals may carry fleas, ticks, rabies and are hosts to sand flies, which can cause leishmaniasis.

During warm weather, bats may appear at night, which is good, because they eat their weight in insects that would otherwise bite you. But they can carry rabies. Do not touch a bat, even if it is on the ground.

Smoking policy

A small fire last week proved that not all members of Sather Air Base understand the smoking policy. Smoking is only allowed in designated smoking areas, and only cigarette butts should be placed in butt cans. Failure to comply with this policy is a failure to follow orders and violators will be punished.

Hometown News Release

The Army and Air Force Hometown News release is a great way to share your service with family and friends back home.

You can complete a HTNR for events including deployments, promotions, education degrees or significant awards. The Hometown News Service sends news stories to your hometown. They also highly encourage you to submit a photo of yourself in uniform with the release.

Click on <https://hn.afnews.af.mil/webpages/paperless/46790/46790-447aegbaghdadiap.html>. For more information, call 446-2405.

Striker Dining Facility Menu

Daily Breakfast Menu

Baked bacon/sausage patties
Creamed beef
Canadian bacon or ham slices
Onion&mushroom quiche
breakfast burrito
Assorted omeletes/eggs to order
Scrambled eggs/hard boiled eggs
Hash browns
Grits/Oatmeal
Waffles/French toast

Short Order Lunch/Dinner

Hamburger/Cheeseburger
Frankfurters
Grilled cheese
Egg rolls
Chicken tenders/Buffalo wings
Pizza/Tacos
Potato/Pasta bar
Baked beans
French fries/onion rings
Philly cheesesteaks

Today

Lunch

Vegetarian veg soup
Meat loaf
Barbecue ribs
Spaghetti w/meatballs
Caribbean chicken

Dinner

Vegetarian veg soup
Beef and noodles
Baked ham

Fried fish

Sunday

Lunch

New England clam chowder
Glazed baked ham
Chili mac
Meat loaf
Cornish hen

Dinner

New England clam chowder
Smothered pork chops
Grilled sausage
Fried chicken
Ham hocks
Baked fish
Barbecue ribs

Monday

Lunch

Cream of mushroom soup
Rotisserie chicken
Italian-style veal steak
Salisbury steak
Barbecue pork chops

Dinner

Cream of mushroom soup
Texas-style beef brisket
Turkey cutlet
Fried chicken

Tuesday

Lunch

Cream of broccoli soup
Yakisoba
Pulled pork barbecue
Caribbean chicken
Swiss steak w/ mushrooms

Dinner

Cream of broccoli soup
Meat loaf
Veal parmesan
Roast pork loin
Parmesan pollock fish

Wednesday

Lunch

Chicken w/rice soup
Swedish meatballs
Barbecue chicken
Corn beef
Honey-glazed chicken

Dinner

Chicken w/rice soup
Baked chicken
Grilled pork chops
Roast beef
Fish filet

Thursday

Lunch

Vegetarian veg soup
Roast turkey
Chicken pot pie
Braised beef
Roast pork ham

Dinner

Vegetarian veg soup
Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Veal parmesan
Fried chicken

Friday

Lunch

Bean w/bacon soup
Fried & baked fish
T-bone steak
Crab legs
Fried shrimp
Seafood gumbo
Fried chicken
Lobster tails

Dinner

Bean w/bacon soup
Salisbury steak

Glazed-baked ham
Baked chicken
Italian veal

May 27

Lunch

Bean w/bacon soup
Fried chicken
Pot roast
Lemon-baked fish
Roasted turkey

Dinner

Bean w/bacon soup
Veal steak
Salmon
Sweet & sour pork chops

May 28

Lunch

New England clam chowder
Glazed baked ham
Chili mac
Meat loaf
Cornish hen

Dinner

New England clam chowder
Smothered pork chops
Grilled sausage
Fried chicken
Ham hocks
Baked fish
Barbecue ribs

May 29

Lunch

Cream of mushroom soup
Pepper steak
Fried fish
Glazed-pineapple baked ham
Veal parmesan

Dinner

Cream of mushroom soup
Barbecue pork
Roast beef
Fried chicken
Spaghetti

May 30

Lunch

Cream of broccoli soup
Cantonese ribs
Baked chicken
Chili mac
Pot roast

Dinner

Cream of broccoli soup
Cajun catfish
Braised beef w/noodles
Breaded pork chops
Italian veal

May 31

Lunch

Chicken w/rice soup
Lasagna w/eggplant
Veal parmesan
Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Salmon

Dinner

Chicken w/rice soup
Chicken curry
Roasted turkey
Salisbury steak
Honey-glazed ham

June 1

Lunch

Bean w/bacon soup
Meat loaf
Fried chicken
Turkey pot pie
Herb-baked chicken

Dinner

Bean w/bacon soup
Grilled chicken breast
Roast fresh ham
Veal parmesan
Swedish meatballs

June 2

Lunch

New England clam chowder
Fried fish
Baked fish
Grilled steak
Seafood gumbo
Fried chicken
Crab legs
Lobster tails
Fried shrimp

Dinner

New England clam chowder
Roast pork loin
El Rancho stew
Baked chicken
Tuna tetrastini

Note: Rice and/or potatoes and a variety of vegetables are served with every meal.
Menu is subject to change without notice!

USAF SERVICES

Combat Support & Community Service

- Every Sunday, Bingo at 9 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dominoes at the Mirage
- Tuesday, Spades at the Mirage 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Hip Hop music!
- Thursday, Darts at the Mirage 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Texas hold 'em at Paradise Point at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- May 27, Horseshoes at the pit at 10 a.m.
- May 28, Bingo! 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- May 29, Spades at the Mirage
- May 30, Horseshoes at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- May 31, Darts! at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. along with rock music!



All events subject to change. To sign up for events, stop in the Mirage Recreation Center. For more information, call 446-2802.

Nothing to do here in the desert after work? Tired of sitting in your tent? The 447th Expeditionary Services Squadron has something for everyone!

Memorial Day 5K run!

Feel like a good run with your friends? Services will hold a Memorial Day 5K, which starts at 9 a.m. at the Mirage Recreation Center May 29.

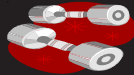


Karaoke

Come out and show your talents and get your 15 seconds of fame every Saturday at the Mirage Recreation Center. Starts at 7:30 p.m.



The Fitness Corner



• Six-pack abs Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. See the Mirage staff for specific times.

• Spinning classes coming soon! See Staff Sgt. Melinda Horak at the Mirage for additional information.



Sather Victory Chapel Worship Services

SATURDAY

5 p.m., Catholic Confession
5:30 p.m., Catholic Service
8 p.m., Catholic Service Camp Slayer Chapel

SUNDAY

8 a.m., Traditional Protestant Service
10 a.m., Gospel Worship Service
2 p.m., Latter Day Saints Service
7:30 p.m., Contemporary Protestant Service

OTHER SERVICES

Contact the chapel for more information on other services including Islamic, Judaic and Wiccan.

Chapel Activities

As the rotation trucks along, the chapel will be offering various activities for everyone. Visit the chapel for more information.